

# Glacier Bay/Gustavus

## 2012 Christmas Bird Count

### 12-15-2012

We ended up with 64 species on count day which includes an unknown hawk and woodpecker. Since they were the only woodpecker and hawk seen on count day, they count toward the total. We had 13 count week species. The total number for the week was 75 species.

Two days of strong winds died down at the last minute providing decent conditions on count day with rain and snow showers blowing through during the day. People covering routes in town and inland said it was very quiet. Probably in part because of the winds before the count and the cold temps in the months and days leading up to the count. Feeders were especially unproductive on count day. Icy Strait had lots of birds, but Glacier Bay and Bartlett Cove had remarkably few birds on the water. Hundreds of kittiwakes were off Lemesurier Island, but they were out of the count circle.



Belted Kingfisher photo by S. Schaller

Total numbers for individual species were pretty good, but there were few species with really high numbers. Some good finds on count day were Fox Sparrow, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Western Grebe, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Lapland Longspur, American Robin, Black Oystercatcher, and Wilson's Snipe. Wintering shorebirds were seen in good numbers. Snowy Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Merlin, and Northern Goshawk all made the count week.

Northern Shrikes were present before and after the count, but were missed on count day. A Short-eared Owl was around prior to count week and a Tundra Swan was found after count week. The most disturbing miss on count day was Red-throated Loon. This is the 5th year running that Red-throated Loon has not been found on count day. They have been present in Bartlett Cove during count week before and after count day for the last several years. I now realize that a significant portion of Bartlett Cove has not been covered in recent years, which helps explain the missed loons.

Thanks very much to everyone who participated. Over twenty people went out on count day. Six people watched feeders at four homes. The park provided a boat and an operator that spent all daylight hours covering a huge part of the count circle. Several people provided count week bird sightings. Two classes from the school went out during count week to look for birds. One home graciously hosted a gathering and dinner after the count.

Species	Totals
Trumpeter Swan	16
Canada Goose	397
Green-winged Teal	14
Mallard	940
Northern Pintail	3
Gadwall	6
American Wigeon	23
Puddle duck sp.	20
Canvasback	1
Greater Scaup	39
Lesser Scaup	1
Harlequin Duck	73
Long-tailed Duck	105
Black Scoter	329
Surf Scoter	988
White-winged Scoter	531
Scoter sp.	22
Common Goldeneye	18
Barrow's Goldeneye	333
Goldeneye sp.	12
Bufflehead	199
Common Merganser	19
Red-breasted Merganser	143
Red-throated Loon	Cw
Pacific Loon	8
Common Loon	82
Yellow-billed Loon	Cw
loon sp.	10
Horned Grebe	36
Red-necked Grebe	7
Western Grebe	2
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	1
Pelagic Cormorant	83
Great Blue Heron	7
Bald Eagle	41
Northern Goshawk	Cw
Merlin	Cw
hawk sp.	1
Black Oystercatcher	13
Sanderling	52
Dunlin	1670
Rock Sandpiper	220
Wilson's Snipe	2
Shorebird sp.	350
Mew Gull	808
Herring Gull	3
Glaucous-winged Gull	641
Black-legged Kittiwake	1
Gull sp.	300
Common Murre	912

Pigeon Guillemot	278
Marbled Murrelet	456
Snowy Owl	Cw
Northern Pygmy-Owl	Cw
Great Horned Owl	Cw
Belted Kingfisher	4
American Three-toed Woodpecker	Cw
Hairy Woodpecker	Cw
woodpecker sp.	1
Northern Shrike	Cw
Steller's Jay	5
Black-billed Magpie	31
Northwestern Crow	334
Common Raven	39
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	116
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6
Brown Creeper	1
Pacific Wren	6
American Dipper	Cw
Golden-crowned Kinglet	26
American Robin	1
Varied Thrush	Cw
Bohemian Waxwing	Cw
Lapland Longspur	3
Snow Bunting	110
American Tree Sparrow	14
Fox Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	11
Dark-eyed Junco	110
Red Crossbill	12
White-winged Crossbill	674
crossbill sp.	2
Common Redpoll	13
Pine Siskin	51
<b>Species on Count Day</b>	<b>64</b>
(this includes unknown woodpecker and unknown hawk)	
<b>Additional Count Week Species</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>